

SAINT MARY of the Assumption



Roman Catholic Church
Manchester, Michigan



REVEREND FR. BOSCO PADAMATTUMMAL
Administrator

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WEEKEND MASSES:
Sunday 8:30 am and 10:30 am
Vigil Mass Saturday at 5:00 pm

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT ♦ MARCH 21, 2021

WE HAVE A PATH TO FOLLOW

– Fr. Bosco Padamattummal –



THERE IS, SOMETHING WE DO NOT TALK ABOUT OFTEN. **DEATH.** Yes, we acknowledge death when it happens but for the most part we do not talk about death with any real depth or substance, and certainly no enthusiasm. We ignore it. We avoid it. The death of our loved ones is too real, too painful. Our own death is too scary. The relationships and parts of our lives that have died are too difficult.

I suspect the Greeks in today's gospel (John 12:20-33) did not go expecting to talk or hear about death. They just want to see Jesus. And who can blame them? Jesus has a pretty good track record up to this point. He has cleansed the temple, turned water into wine, healed a little boy, fed 5000, given sight to the blind, and raised Lazarus from the dead. Seeing Jesus makes it all real. After all, seeing, they say, is believing. We all have our reasons for wanting to see Jesus.

If you want to know your reasons for wanting to see Jesus, look at what you pray for. We don't want to face the pain of loss and death in whatever form it comes. We skip over and leave behind what we do not like, want, or understand. But Christianity is participating in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus sets before the Greeks who want to see him.

“Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also.”

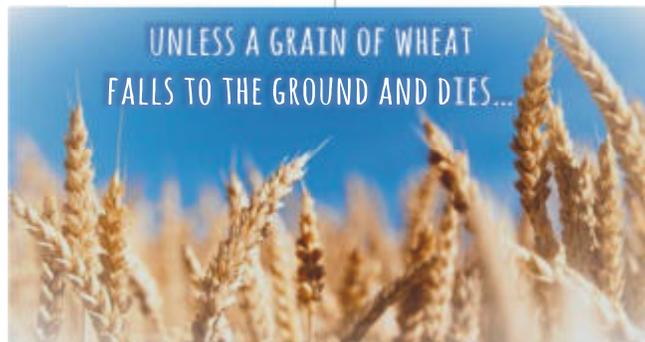
If we want to see Jesus then we must look death in the face. To really look at, acknowledge, and face death may be the most difficult work we ever do. It is, as Jesus describes, soul troubling. It shakes us to the core.

There is a temptation to want to skip over death and get to resurrection. So it is no coincidence that this week the Church points us towards Holy Week and reminds us that death is the gateway to new life. Death comes first. Death is not always, however, physical. Sometimes it is spiritual or emotional. There are

the deaths of relationships, marriages, hopes, dreams, careers, health, beliefs. Regardless of what it looks like, this is not the end.

Think about the scriptural stories of

— continued on p. 2



St. Mary's Parish Weekly Calendar u March 20-28, 2021
 Mass Intention [requested by], & parish activities

SAT. MARCH 20 *Lenten Weekday*

Jer 11:18-20 • Jn 7:40-53
 3:30-4:30pm Confessions
 Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Mass
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for the Fifth Sunday of Lent: For the people**

SUN. MARCH 21 *Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Jer 31:31-34 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
 Heb 5:7-9 † Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Masses
 Jn 12:20-33
 ➤ **8:30am MASS: † Eddie Walz** [Joe & Gretchen Kirk]
 ➤ **10:30am MASS: † Helen Germek** [Kathy & Martin Brogley]

MON. MARCH 22 *Lenten Weekday*

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 ➤ **12:10pm MASS: † Father Charles Irvin**
 (or 13:41c-62 [Betsy Cummings]
 Jn 8:1-11 12:45pm Lenten Bible Study / FFH
 3:30-4:45pm Rel Ed classes / PC
 7:00pm Area Communal Penance opportunity / St. Andrew, Saline

TUES. MARCH 23 *Lenten Weekday*

(opt. mem. St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop)
 Nm 21:4-9 ➤ **8:30am MASS: † Tom Burch**
 Jn 8:21-30 [Bill & Astrida Panches and Family]
 7:00pm Lenten Bible Study / FFH
 7:00pm Area Communal Penance opportunity / St. Joseph, Dexter

WED. MARCH 24 *Lenten Weekday*

Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 ➤ **8:30am MASS: † M.J. Kidd (birthday)**
 Jn 8:31-42 [Alice Kidd]
 7:00pm Area Communal Penance opportunity / St. Mary, Chelsea

THUR. MARCH 25 *Solemnity: The Annunciation of the Lord*

Is 7:10-14; 8:10 ➤ **8:30am Mass: † Tom Kladzyk**
 Heb 10:4-10 [Marge Scully]
 Lk 1:26-38 7:00pm Area Communal Penance opportunity / St. Mary, Manchester

FRI. MARCH 26 *Lenten Weekday*

Jer 20:10-13 ➤ **8:30am MASS: † M.J. Kidd** [Alice Kidd]
 Jn 10:31-42 3:30-7:00pm FISH FRY DINNER
 (DRIVE THRU-TAKE OUT / PC)
 † 7:30 pm Stations of the Cross
 8:00-9:00pm Confessions 

SAT. MARCH 27 *Lenten Weekday*

Ez 37:21-28 • Jn 11:45-56
 3:30-4:30pm Confessions
 † Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min. before Mass
 ➤ **5:00pm VIGIL MASS for Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: † Tom Kladzyk**
 [Jim & Ella Landini]

SUN. MARCH 28 *Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord*

Mk 11:1-10 8-8:15 and 10-10:15am Confession
 (or Jn 12:12-16 † Stations of the Cross prayed 20 min.
 Is 50:4-7 before Masses
 Phil 2:6-11 ➤ **8:30am MASS: For the people**
 Mk 14:1-15:47 (or 15:1-39) 

Reminder: Because the First Friday of April is "Good Friday," we will NOT have our usual day of Exposition & Adoration. 

BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS!
 March 21 ... Kathryn McGoff
 March 22 ... Mary Ann Fielder
 ... Sharon Kleinschmidt
 March 25 ... James Miller
 March 27 ... Michelle Horn
 ... Lisa Irvin-Chisnell

FR. BOSCO'S ARTICLE FROM PAGE 1, continued:
We have a Path to Follow

loss and renewal. Abram left his country and kindred so that he might be made a great nation, renamed Abraham, and be a blessing to all the families of the earth. Jacob lost his old identity and was wounded so that he could become a new man, Israel, with a new life. James and John left their father, boats, and nets to become disciples of Jesus and fishers of people. Jesus taught his disciples, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again" (Mark 9:31). Resurrection is always hidden within death. There can be no resurrection without a death.

To the extent we avoid death, we avoid life. The degree to which we are afraid to die is the degree to which we are afraid to fully live. Every time we avoid and turn away from death, we proclaim it stronger than God, more real than life, and the ultimate victor.

The unspoken fear and avoidance of death underlies all our "what if" questions. What if I fail, lose, fall down? What if I get hurt? What if I don't get what I want? What if I lose that one I most need and love? Every "what if" question separates and isolates us from life, God, one another, and ourselves. It keeps us from bearing fruit. We are just a single grain of wheat. We might survive, but we aren't really alive.

Jesus did not ask to be saved from death. He is unwilling to settle for survival when the fullness of God's life is before him. He knows that in God's world strength is found in weakness, victory looks like defeat, and life is born of death. This is what allowed him to ride triumphantly into Jerusalem, a city that will condemn and kill him. That is what allows us to ride triumphantly through life. Triumph doesn't mean that we get our way or that we avoid death. It means death is the beginning not the end.

Dear brothers and sisters, regardless of who or what in our life has died, God in Christ has already cleared the way forward. We have a path to follow. That path is the death of Jesus. Jesus' death, however, is of no benefit to us if we are not willing to submit to death, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Ultimately, death, in whatever way it comes to us, means that we entrust all that we are and all that we have to God. We let ourselves be lifted up; lifted up in Christ's crucifixion, lifted up in his resurrection, lifted up in his ascension into heaven.

He is drawing all people to himself – that where he is, we too may be. Grains of wheat. That is what we are. Through death, however, we can become the bread of life. "Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies...." †

The family of Jerry Kripas wants to express to the people of Saint Mary their grateful appreciation for the many prayers being offered for Jerry. Thank you! And he continues to need our prayerful support. God bless you. 

Talk on Saint Joseph at the Pious Union

During this "YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH," the Pious Union of St. Joseph in Grass Lake has scheduled a series of talks on St. Joseph on the 3rd Sunday each month. This month's talk is this **Sun., March 21** at 6:00pm. Come in-person or watch live on Facebook (Piousunion/ShrineofStJoseph) or the Shrine website (www.piousunionofstjoseph.org). For more info, call 517-522-8017.

O most blessed Patriarch, glorious St. Joseph, who was chosen to be the foster father of the Word made flesh and the chaste spouse of Mary, pray for us.



Pray the Stations of the Cross



Fridays at 7:30 pm and 20 minutes before each weekend Mass

Fish Fry



THE LAST FISH FRY THIS LENT!

Come by this Friday March 26 3:30-7:00pm

AT ST. MARY'S PARISH CENTER 108 E. MADISON ST.

FAST DRIVE-THRU TAKE-OUT!

\$12

Lenten Penance "Services"

The graces of God's love through the Sacrament of Reconciliation await us, especially as we prepare for the joy of Easter! This week we have our four Area Penance Services, each at 7pm: 1) **Mon., March 22** at *St. Andrew, Saline*; 2) **Tues, March 23** at *St. Joseph, Dexter*; 3) **Wed., March 24** at *St. Mary, Chelsea*; and 4) **Thurs., March 25** here at *St. Mary, Manchester*. This year there will not be the usual prayer service. However, each evening there will be four priests available to hear confessions. *Be blessed with the words of absolution!*

Easter Food Bags

Sign-up sheets, with reminder tabs, are in the vestibule for donations for the Easter Food Bags to be given to 10 Manchester Family Service families. Please put donations in the Fr. Fisher Hall kitchen, and pin a note with your name on it (do not write on the products). Put hams and crescent rolls in the refrigerator. However, frozen pies need to be put in Father Bosco's freezer, so either take them to the office or contact Father directly. All items need to be in FFH by noon **Sun., March 28**. They then will be taken to the Parish Center, and the bags filled. Families will receive their bags on March 31. Thank you for your generosity. —*Marja Warner*

Memorial Easter Lilies

We are taking orders for Memorial Easter Lilies. The cost is \$16, and you can take your lily home after the 10:30 Easter Sunday Mass. Orders are needed by **Mon., March 22**. Order forms are available in the vestibule and can be left in the vestibule basket or put in the collection basket. Checks should be made payable to "*The Flower Garden*."

Sign-up sheets to help decorate the church on **Sat., April 3** from 10am – noon and/or 2– 4pm are also available. Contact Susan Fielder at 734-972-5652 or sfielder@umich.edu if you have questions.

Watch the Lenten Video Sessions!

Comments from the 25 parishioners who have been watching the series of 5 videos on "Angels, Demons, Heaven, and Hell" in person, should encourage all parishioners to watch them at their convenience. "I've never heard this before" is the typical reaction. Yet the Bible and the 2000 year history of Church teaching is crystal clear about these messages. Don't pass up this opportunity to learn about the reality of heaven and hell and what is needed to spend eternity in the presence of God. Use your computer or smartphone to link to the parish website: <https://stmarymanchester.org> Then click on the green button [Resources for the five Lenten Sessions] or the cloud account link: https://1drv.ms/u/s!Aku2ORF4gf9wgYBOuuJ7NMEml1L_Q?e=dYuTxr The cloud link will give you direct access to the session videos. The green button will provide access to much more. ■

Banns of Marriage

III. **Jacob Bauer & Riley Kent**

March 27, 2021



The SANCTUARY LAMPS are burning this week for the following intentions:

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK...

- 1) In memory of my husband +Tom Kladzyk on his birthday (*Jo Kladzyk*)
- 2) In memory of +Father Charlie (*Jim & Marja Warner*)



ST. MARY'S SUPPORT OF THE 2021 DSA

Our parish goal: \$28,871

As of March 13: 27 families have supported DSA with \$7,480 (or 25.9% of our goal!) LET'S ALL DO OUR PART!

Please Pray for...

- Michelle (niece of Laurie & Greg Sanders)
- Michelle Lazar
- Clara Peterson
- Peter Patrick
- Don Christian and his wife
- Loretta Widmayer
- Ed Z. (father of Therese Bossory)
- Bibian Sangster
- Eunice Scully
- Christy Woody
- Jerry Kripas
- Melody Binkerd
- Joe Novak
- Luise Kienzle
- James Strong
- Annie (sister of Lynn Waldecker)
- Paula Saft
- Leon Ball
- Bruce Sommers



St. Mary Roman Catholic Church Stewardship

WEEKLY COLLECTION: Sunday, March 7, 2021

Sunday Env (75)	\$ 7,633.02
Welcome & Loose	71.41
Easter decorations (10)	240.00
E-giving (4)	476.06
Combined toward budget:	\$ 8,420.49
Budget goal:	5,300.00
Amt ABOVE goal:	+ \$ 3,120.49
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:	
Bldg & Maint (12)	\$ 450.00
Black & Indian (1)	40.00
Cath Relief Serv (1)	20.00
Poor Box	35.55
Votive candles	41.00

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK



Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Send Your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful men to minister as priests. Lord, we pray for Your grace to encourage and support our seminarians as they endeavor to become priests. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Diocese of Lansing Seminarian Joshua Bauer, Ss. Elizabeth/Dominic. Tecumseh



Heavenly Father, we give You thanks and praise for Your Son, Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to inspire holy, faithful women to become Brides of Christ and serve Your people. Lord, we pray that Your grace and love be enough for this woman in discernment of consecrated life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Sr. M. Evangeline Rutherford

NEED HELP? ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION: Call (800) 57WOMAN (800-579-6626) – OR – Text for Help: "HELPLINE" to 313131

Need Help? PROJECT RACHEL (post-abortion reconciliation and healing) Call the confidential phone line: 517-993-0291, or email nlc@resurrectionlansing.org

NEED HELP? "COURAGE" is a Catholic spiritual support group for those struggling with same sex attraction. "ENCOURAGE" is a separate support group for families & friends. For info in the Diocese of Lansing, call 517-342-2596 or email caverart@comcast.net

NEED HELP? An "AA" group meets Fridays at 7:00pm at Emanuel Church, 324 W Main St. (next door to St Mary's)



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